

# SOUTHAMPTON UFO GROUP

*12 Years of Investigation*

NUMBER 155 & 156

SEPT / OCT 2003

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## Obituary : Graham Birdsall UFO Magazine.

It was with great sadness to hear on the 19th September, that Graham had passed away at 5 a.m. in the morning after being in hospital for 9 days following a brain haemorrhage. What can I say... My thoughts and the groups thoughts are with Graham's wife and family at a time of such sadness. But, I feel this is how Graham would not like us to remember him.

I have known Graham for some 20 years and over the years we had a good friendship and along with Russel Callaghan, good friends in deed. In 2002, Graham invited myself and Steve Rider SUFOG's secretary to give a lecture, which full-filled



**GRAHAM BIRDSALL**  
**7th April 1954 -**  
**19th Sept 2003**

our dreams of actually talking at a Quest conference instead of being in the audience. I thank Graham for this chance of a lifetime for me. Graham had a great sense of humour and he could be serious when he wanted to be and he would let you know it. Graham (and not for getting the others at UFO Magazine) brought researchers from all

around the world to lecture in this country. People such as Stanton Friedman. Graham offered great warmth and friendship to all those who met him and he was a great inspiration and figurehead for British UFOlogy. The 2003 conference has been cancelled and I feel that is the right thing to do. Many people may not and maybe it should of gone ahead in his memory ? With such a British Figure-head in UFOlogy no longer with us, which direction will British UFOlogy now go and who will we look to, to fill the gap ?

Lets all say a prayer and remember Graham in our hearts for ever.

**Bill Coones (SUFOG Member)**

Hello to All: I'm typing on a French keyboard so there may be some typos. I am in France now at a friends in 90 to 100 degree weather: The crop circle season is over in Avebury with all the hot weather, for England, and the farmers have cut the fields and all the circles they contain: This year we were able to make it in to three circles. The first two were very well laid out and done in a methodical manner: The first was at Avebury Trusloe and we met a gentleman at the crop circle cafe, who claims to be in contact with the circle makers. We were there later in the evening to do a meditation and raising of vibration there. After saying and affirming our wishes to contact the makers of the circle I was impressed that the contact would be more on a vibrational level which is where we humans need the most help. After reading about the latest blackouts on the east coast and the greed and money grabbing going on there, this just drives home the point that this is where we need help. The most impressive thing about the first two circles in a first hand onsite analysis, is that they were both made in a methodical manner. All the turning points of the patterns were done in very straight lines, the straw was all pointing evenly in the same direction in a very orderly manner. Also for the first time we have collected some bent nodes that the investigators say is a very important part of a genuine crop circle. The circle at Green street in Avebury was full of them as I saw many walking around. Ferne collected quite a few just sitting in one place in the circle and waiting for me. I noticed that outside the circle in the standing crop there were no bent nodes to speak of as normal crops do not grow in a bent at the node manner but grow straight and not bent at a thirty degree angle as some we collected were. These nodes were not broken by the way. I think that many people may come to be taking this phenomena for granted as the years go by, but it is something very unusual

and worth of study in my opinion. We met quite a few people on this trip and the new owner of the crop circle cafe, who I hope can keep it together to open again next season. The third crop circle we saw was at the top of the hill at West Overton. We had seen this circle from the road as we passed by on the first trip but did not stop because it looked very small. When we went back the second time, and saw the whole thing on the net, it was much larger. We learned from people in the field and at the crop circle cafe that this one had been added to a few nights after the first circles appeared. The overall feeling of it was that it was done in a sloppy manner with many straws sticking up at random and some of the edges were not packed down all the way. Just like someone had not put their weight on the board evenly. There reportedly were some circle makers caught there in the field one night with flashlights. In retrospect this was a valuable experience too since the faked ones must be experienced too so one may see the differences. We did our trip to Bonsall in the Derbyshire Dales and the trip went well for the most part. Got to re-acquaint ourselves with Allan Webster at the Barley Mow. He is telling us now that they see a significant sighting once a month or so there now and there now is an unofficial UFO society that meets there now. I was impressed with Allan's development into a light worker in his own way in introducing people to the UFO field when they visit his pub: After all, life is not just about paying the bills and toil in the lifelong struggle in our society for money and power and status and other things that are just illusion. The important thing is our own spiritual development, awareness, helping others and raising the vibration of the people on the planet. This is what the crop circles are about; what UFO sighting is about; and contact with the other side is all about. There is plenty to do because ignorance and oppression is still everywhere at this time and there is a lot to do. We did a skywatch on the moors above Bonsall near some ancient lead mine and tailings left over thousands of years of working the mines. There is a roman road leading past the pub to the moors. Also we were told by Allan that Cromwell fought a battle in this area.

We carried on to an interesting area just east of Manchester called Longendale. This valley

has history of mysterious lights and they can be found on the net. 'Longdendale Lights' is the search phrase. (Having some difficulty because the characters on this keyboard are in weird places) We pulled into a campsite at the foot of the Pennine Mountains and persuaded the manager that we should be allowed to stay as it was so close to where we want to be in the valley. You see some sites dislike motor homes and will not allow them, and some dislike tents and will not allow them. We just happened on one that did like motor homes. Ferne explained that our "motor home" was so small and dinky that it was just one step above camping: Anyway that must have worked because the manager let us stay.

**Daily Mirror, Saturday, August 23, 2003.**

## U Fake O

**How the world was fooled into an alien alert by this balloon**  
by Nick Webster

THIS is the "UFO" that got the world asking if aliens were about to land in Britain.

But those pictured beneath it are hardly the little green men many had feared were on board.

They are the hoaxers who ran the stunt in a bizarre TV experiment.

The 25 ft "flying saucer" stunned villagers on Saturday as it spun across the sky 240 ft above their heads.

The outlandish sighting made the headlines as far away as Australia.

But the down-to-earth truth behind the "space craft" emerged yesterday.

TV firm Chrysalis had it built for a Ch 4 documentary with working title '**How To Build a Spaceship**'.

Danny Cohen, of Ch 4, said: "We were trying to see whether we could build a convincing looking spaceship and in that regard undoubtedly we succeeded.

"Dozens of people saw it and couldn't quite understand what they had seen. So I think it

did work.

It stayed quite high in the sky and looked harmless, so it frightened nobody. I think people were more bewildered by what they were seeing.

"People were left rubbing their heads, wondering what was going on."

It took eight months to research, design and build the £50,000 aircraft.

Model flight specialists Cutting Edge Effects - veterans of four Bond films - built it using a carbon fibre hoop as the skeleton.

This was set in a reflective-plastic balloon filled with helium.

After a US military engine was ditched as too heavy, electric fan engines from Germany prove [smudged] the key to making the "saucer" fly [smudged] the right speed - 20 mph.

It was tested in the aircraft hangar shown above at a secret location.

The out-of-this-world con included using seven pilots to fly the aircraft by remote control for three miles.

Suspicion for the hoax first fell on UFO buffs holding their annual Sky watch in the village, Avebury, Wilts.

But producer Mark Raphael said they weren't fooled - despite the eerie setting of a stone circle.

He said they spent the rest of the night "looking at nothing, and yet when the craft flew over they hardly got out of their seats".

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## SUFOG Open Day Cancelled.

Just to remind you all that the SUFOG open day that was planned for the 15th October 2003 has been cancelled. I am getting enquiries about it, but it is certainly not happening in 2003. As for 2004, we will have to see what 2004 holds for us all as we do not know what is waiting around the corner. I would like to think that we can have some kind of event, but I will need your support if such an event is to happen.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, Australia

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/08/27/1061663855310.html>  
08-28-03

### Mars Movements Spark Huge Rise In German 'UFO Sightings'

As the planet Mars has moved to its closest point to Earth in around 60,000 years, the number of 'UFO sightings' in Germany has soared, a researcher said yesterday.

"I'm hearing some of the most outrageous claims at the moment," said Werner Walter, who heads Germany's CENAP centre tasked with investigating reports about unidentified flying objects.

Last night Mars moved its closest to Earth since Neanderthals walked the planet - an estimated 55.76 million km away.

The fourth planet from the Sun, Mars appeared red and orange and as bright as Jupiter, the giant of our solar system, as it made the rare orbital rendezvous with the Earth.

A retired German couple said their car had been followed for about two hours by an orange UFO only about 500 metres from them on August 13. Another caller recently said that the moon had been "followed by something" for hours. "Mars, with its fiery colour, could easily fool people who are not too well informed into believing they are witnessing the arrival of a UFO," Walter said.

## THE FOURTH BRITISH NATIONAL UFO SKY WATCH

(August 30<sup>th</sup> 2003)

(ORGANISED BY RESEARCH GROUP  
STRANGE PHENOMENA INVESTIGATIONS)

Report by Founder Malcolm Robinson.

(With comments by some attendees of the skywatch)

UFOlogy is more about researching and studying UFO reports, it's also about getting out into the field so to speak, participating in sky watches whether they be local or National. There are many UFO clubs and societies throughout the UK each who stage their own particular sky watch which gives an opportunity

to many individuals not only to find out more about UFOs, but to find out more importantly, what UFOs are not. And sky watches are a great way to determine what's a satellite, what's an aircraft etc.

SPI have staged two major National sky watches over the past two years, our first one was held at Rendlesham Forest back in 2001 and our second one was near Bonnybridge in Central Scotland in 2002. Owing to receiving a number of video tapes showing orbs, rods, and strange mists filmed in Rendlesham Forest sent to me by author and researcher Brenda Butler (and hearing many tales from other people about strange things happening at Rendlesham Forest) I felt that we just had to visit Rendlesham Forest again. And this we did on the evening of Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> 2003. What follows is my report on how that sky watch went.

### TRIPPING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC.

My fellow SPI colleague John Wickham arranged for a mini bus to take interested SPI members to the forest and leaving slightly later than planned, our motley SPI crew set off down the A12 with thoughts in our heads of what we might (or might not) see during our sky watch. One would have thought that we were going to a comedy store rather than a sky watch as quite a number of people in the bus were cracking gags that had us all in stitches. Believe you me the laughs we had going to Rendlesham Forest certainly helped pass the two hour journey and I was glad to get out of the mini bus simply because I just couldn't take any more jokes !!!!!!! (It was hurting).

Our merry band of sky watch travellers finally arrived at our meeting point of the Cherry Tree pub near the village of Bromswell where upon entering we found it to be jam packed, little did I know at the time that every single person in the bar that night was there for our sky watch. Familiar faces and old faces walked up to talk to me and I was surprised with some of the people who were there.

I soon met up with Brenda Butler who

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### Southampton UFO Group

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##### **Please note :**

**As from the 1st of January 2004, subscriptions to the newsletter will rise to £8 for single membership - a rise of 50p to cover the rise in postage.**

was in deep conversation with Welsh Psychic Jane McCarthy (who, incidentally, is speaking to SPI in London next year, Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> 2004). Brenda suggested that we should make a move as they had been waiting for the SPI mini bus to arrive since 7:30pm. Acknowledging this, I quickly went round the tables and spoke to those sky watchers. Some of the sky watchers there at the Cherry Tree pub were, Professor Chris French and some young ladies!! (I guess psychology students!) The Essex UFO group, the Southend UFO group, Dan McCarthy, (The Rendlesham Regulars). Also in attendance were Robert Rosamond, Jac Solomon, George from Aberdeen, (Yes all the way from Aberdeen) although as I later found out he wasn't the furthest travelled, a couple had come to Suffolk all the way from Ireland just for our sky watch, so they won the imaginary cigar ! Two prominent authors and commentators of the Rendlesham Forest mystery Georgina Bruni and Peter Robbins unfortunately couldn't attend but sent their best wishes to SPI wishing us a successful sky watch. There were many others gathered in the bar busily chatting away and I'm sure that many a UFO story was exchanged that night and a few new friends were made as well.

Max Burns, the chief comic of the SPI bus quickly finished his drink, and both he and I started to leave a complete and utterly empty bar. Two minutes before you were standing shoulder to shoulder, and when I said that it was time to go it was like pouring water out of a jug ! The barman said as Max and I left to go, "*If you guys bring any aliens or see anything in the Forest tonight and have photos to prove it, I'll open up the bar all night and all drinks are on the house*". And with a grin like a Cheshire cat he bade us farewell, his probable sarcastic comments echoing to a now empty and forlorn bar. No more money for him tonight!

Walking out of the pub into the car park I looked up into the night sky and was met with a myriad of stars spread out like silver dust over a black velvet background. An absolutely perfect night, a perfect sky with not a hint of a cloud anywhere. A sky watchers dream. The best sky that I have ever seen at any sky watch anywhere in the United Kingdom.

I walked towards those assembled and organised the convoy of cars from the pub car park. Soon we were following Jac Solomon in his camouflaged camper van who himself actually lives in this van near the forest. Jac has had his own strange experiences at Rendlesham Forest (some of which were reported in my last report of the First National UFO Skywatch

held there.) It wasn't long before our convoy of cars swung round into the car park at Rendlesham Forest and, after everyone sorted themselves out and got all their gear together, I gathered everyone together in a circle where I spoke briefly about the Rendlesham Forest Incident and also some of the phenomenon that has allegedly occurred there. I stated the necessity for us all to stay together as one big group as anyone who inadvertently got left behind would indeed (if they didn't know their way around the forest) certainly get lost. Just like a well known London UFOlogist two years ago ! I also mentioned the fact that Georgina Bruni had e-mailed me to inform me that there was a 'Hanger Dance' being held at RAF Bentwaters the same night as our sky watch featuring the Memphis Belle Swing Orchestra in which there was a combination of a 1950's disco, Military Vehicles and an Air Display, we saw none of that. (Hope they had a good time in their warm Hanger)

I finished with a short spiel about SPI and why we were staging the sky watch, after which I then turned it over to Brenda Butler herself who was part author of the very first book about the Rendlesham Forest mystery, 'Sky Crash' with Dot Street and Jenny Randles. Brenda explained to the assembled sky watchers (*I later counted 51 and there were further people there that night who didn't join the main party so I would say there were around about 60 people who turned up on the night*) that from the time of the initial Rendlesham Forest events of 1980, she and her partner Peter had filmed and photographed many strange orbs and rods and also weird mists and 'alien' shapes (!) in the forest, a lot of this filmed stuff I have seen personally. There is of course lots of controversy as to the nature of these Orbs and Rods and I'll refrain for the moment in giving my own views about this suffice it to say that these Orbs and Rods are now commonplace and can be seen more on digital photography than normal 35m film.

#### LEFT AT EAST GATE.

After Brenda's short talk, we took those assembled up to East Gate, where on that December night back in 1980, the American Military personnel went out into the forest in

search of an explanation of reported strange lights whipping around the forest. That done, we then took a left out of the car park and walked up to track one and into a part of Rendlesham Forest that I've never been to before, the area in which Georgina Bruni states was the main UFO landing area and this area is featured in a black and white photo in her book 'You Can't Tell The People' Sedgwick & Jackson' 2000 ISBN 0-283-06358-0. Here Brenda's partner Peter spoke about what happened and spoke quite a bit about one of the trees in the area that he said still showed signs of damage and decay. From here we walked into Rendlesham Forest proper and Brenda took us to the site where Colonel Charles Halt claimed he met up with not only the strange triangular shaped craft, but 'alien' entities as well'. The area was quite small, around 30 feet in circumference if that, and it was here that Brenda told those assembled a quite strange tale, that of the vanishing tree !!

#### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN !

Apparently whilst taking a group of sky watchers to this area a few years ago, she was surprised to see a fir pine tree standing right in the middle of the area as if it had been there forever, (although she did state that it was just over 7 feet tall which indicates that it wasn't really that old a tree, quite young actually). Thankfully she took photos of this tree. Anyway, some weeks later she was back in the area and was dumfounded to say the least to see that the tree wasn't there anymore!! Not even a hole in the ground, she thought at first she was in the wrong place but no, she WAS in the right place! Why on earth someone would want to plant a tree in this location then take it away again, well, it beggars belief!! From here we walked to various parts of the forest that had a role to play in the Rendlesham Forest mystery and even although it was a clear and starry night most of us were stumbling around

falling into the odd pot hole etc. Thankfully SPI's Robert Rosamond stayed behind to ensure that any stragglers knew which way we were heading. The Forest was like a London film premier with camera flashes going off nearly every ten seconds as many people took lots of shots of the forest hoping that they would capture those aforementioned orbs. Thankfully we were not to be disappointed and I'll come back to discuss those photographs later.

The convoy of sky watchers walked down track after track stopping off to occasionally glance skywards where the odd shooting star dropped majestically down through the sky. A number of satellites were also observed but those elusive and oft reported triangular shaped UFOs must have been on holiday ! (Bonnybridge !) Walking down the forestry paths one got into some really good discussions with people. I had a brief chat with UFOlink's Joe McGonagle where we spoke about a recent witness case that he had asked SPI to Investigate. (A full report on that one coming soon) There were some other cracking conversations going on and this clearly was a 'busman's holiday (of sorts). There was no fear of me getting lost in the Forest as my partner Judith Jaafar hung onto my arm probably to ensure that I didn't do my own personal sky watch as I have a nasty habit of going off on my own. As people were walking down the forestry path, it was very difficult to distinguish who was who and this was even when you were walking right next to them, such was the enveloping darkness that shrouded the place when your torch was off.

### WELL WAS HE OR WASN'T HE !

Our next port of call was Capel Green the area where Larry Warren claims the Rendlesham Forest Incident occurred. I've heard from a few sources recently that Larry Warren's claims of being at the scene of the Incident on the night in question, is itself questionable, and that he wasn't even on the base at all during the nights in question! Whether these latest rumours can be substantiated with any clarity has yet to be decided although they are surfacing more and more. Indeed, Brenda has an audio tape in which apparently Larry Warren admits to not having been anywhere near the UFO Incident

as he wasn't in England at the time!! Mmmmm. Anyway, everyone gathered round as Jac Solomon explained the events that occurred here at this site. The Orford Ness lighthouse theory was mentioned and all agreed that this was laughable in the extreme. How could anyone in their right mind believe that this spinning light beam could attribute to all the reports and create this massive case needs to book themselves into the funny farm.

From Capel Green we all walked to an area where some of the forest tracks converge (a forestry crossroads if you like) Here some of us stayed and some of us moved on for cups of tea and coffee back at the cars. I stayed with journalist Hamish McKenzie and a few others and lay back on the by now damp grass. I looked up into the most beautiful night sky that I've ever seen. The Milky Way was spread out above us and there was little if any wind at all. It was a peaceful and tranquil night but the temperature was lowering. After around 30 minutes we decided to call it a day. Nothing was seen that could be termed anomalous. Walking back up the forestry track we were stopped by Peter (Brenda's partner) who showed us quite an interesting piece of video footage that he had taken a few weeks previously. It was a night time shot of the forest and you can see Peter's touch going around in a circle against some trees when all of a sudden a black, and at first, human shape glides past the camera into shot then morphs into a weird shape then disappears into some bushes. Peter states that it's not a shadow as nobody was behind him. It may have a natural explanation but on first glance, it sure looks pretty dam weird.

### ORBS AND MORE ORBS.

I said that many people took photographs and during the walk back many people had stopped on the track to huddle together around someone's digital camera. And there, plain as day, were

many many photos of orbs and mists, from not one person's camera, but at least half a dozen, and that's only the ones that I know about. ! Brenda Butler herself managed to capture quite an amazing photo, which showed 2 red lines bending into the air at 90 degrees. I never saw any mist at all in Rendlesham but coming up on people's photos were large banks of mist, maybe the digital camera can pick up mist that the human eye can't see (is this possible!)

All in all then it had been an interesting night. A night in which saw the perfect sky, a night which drew many like minded individuals together from all parts of the U.K. (thanks to you all) I guess there is a strange kind of camaraderie with groups of people like us. The people on the Rendlesham Forest sky watch had their own ideas about UFO's and UFOlogy, some were weird some were sane, and some were in the middle! It certainly takes all sorts. One thing that holding a sky watch of this nature does, is bring people together. It brings them to areas where UFO activity has allegedly occurred, where they can visit the areas, participate in sky watches, and get off their back-sides and participate in an area which to some may seem bizarre, fanciful maybe, but one things for sure, being in these places is what UFOlogy is all about. One may never see anything, one may wonder why on Earth we do what we do, but one retains a semblance of hope, hope that something 'might' just happen which confirms our beliefs, and justifies us leaving the warmth of our homes.

Until such times as conclusive proof of the UFO enigma slaps us in the face, we may have to admit that for the moment we are probably a million miles away from the answer. Many thought that when we reached the Millennium all would be revealed, that has come and gone. This Global UFO phenomenon has been with us since time immemorial and doesn't look like it wants the full truth to come out.

I believe personally that humankind is indeed somehow interacting with a non-human intelligence that has abducted humans for it's own purposes. Other than witness stories and debatable photographs, we must admit that the evidence is none too conclusive. The only highlight for me as a researcher over the past several months, was being sent by SPI member Nick Jedrzejewski from Northampton, the Steven Greer audio tapes of the Disclosure Project where many ex American Army, Navy, and Air men, men of authority swore blind they saw UFOs near Military establishments and who saw classified Military documents of the U.S. Government's open knowledge of the UFO subject. This stuff was dynamite and if there

### SUFOG DIARY - 2003..

#### Meetings are £3.00 for the evening.

Oct 15th 2003 :  
Video Evening  
Open Discussion.  
**(Abduction Cartoons ?)**

Nov 19th 2003 :  
Video Evening  
**(Mysterious Rods)**

Dec 17th 2003 :  
SUFOG Christmas meeting.  
Bring Christmas nibbles to share  
with other members...  
**(Video Special)**

Please contact the Editor before the above dates to confirm that the Sky Watch / Meeting are still going ahead. This is because Sky Watch's are likely to be cancelled / changed due to weather conditions, and other commitments that the editor is not aware of at the time of publication of the newsletter..

are any UFOlogist out there who hasn't seen a copy of the T.V. coverage of the Disclosure Project or heard the tapes, then please make it your priority, believe you me, it's like putting petrol in a car, this is the fuel to carry you forward and makes you realise WHY you are in this subject.

Anyway, I'm digressing. In closing may I thank all those that attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> British National UFO Skywatch at Rendlesham Forest I'm sure like me you all enjoyed yourself. I would also like to thank SPI's John Wickham who organised the Mini Bus up to Suffolk from London, well done John, and I would like to thank the events of 1980 in Rendlesham, true or not, for making 50 odd souls tramp through it's dark and foreboding forest with hopes of seeing aliens, orbs, and rods. It's a tough job you know, but someone's got to do it.

#### (Comments of Professor Chris French)

I'm still not quite sure how I ended up attending my first sky watch but I must admit that I'm glad that I did - it was most enjoyable! I was amazed at the number of people, almost all "sceptics", who were really keen to go once we started asking around. I was even more amazed at the numbers who said how much they would like to have gone when I've told them about it since. Maybe next year there will be a "Skeptic" mini-bus?

Amongst the many highlights of the event for me was just getting out of London and seeing the night sky again - it was truly awe-inspiring! When I was a kid, I always wanted to be an astronomer - what went wrong?

I must admit, another highlight was when Judith Jaafar told me that it was said that my mere presence would prevent any paranormal occurrences. It conjured up visions of a technologically advanced alien fleet silently traversing the vast distance of interstellar space to make their important rendezvous in Rendlesham - only to stop at Jupiter's orbit with complaints of "Oh, sh\*t! We can't go - Chris French is there!" Oh, the power! Could someone let the aliens know that I'm quite friendly really and I genuinely would love to meet them (but no probes!).

And you'll be pleased to hear that we caught LOADS of orbs on our digital camera. That cynic Judith Jaafar may not believe that they are of any paranormal significance, but I choose to believe that they indicate a high level of spiritual evolution on my part (it's just that, most of the time, I'm in

denial).

I must admit that I was a bit taken aback by the number of people who approached me with suspicion all over their faces, muttering "So why have YOU come tonight?". At the time, I had not heard about the attempted hoax at another sky watch a couple of weeks back. It obviously made sense - failed hoax attempt two weeks ago, they're going to try it again, that's why Frenchie's here .... I must admit I was then rather hoping for a spectacular "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" liaison with the ETs. I could just imagine everyone standing there, not lost in awe-struck wonder, but saying "Pah! It's an obvious hoax!!"

Anyway, if the aliens give permission, I hope to attend a few more in the future - it was great fun! (Chris French)

#### The Cherry Tree Pub, Bromswell, Suffolk, 30 August, Third National Skywatch. (Comments of Judith Jaafar)

Goodness me, what a gathering! I've never seen so many ardent field researchers in one place at any one time, fifty in all. Some were in camouflage fatigues, others in smart jackets and dress shoes. The pub was heaving by the time we got there, late because of the frequent toilet stops on the SPI minibus, and an unfortunate incident where our Audrey donned a ski mask at a service station and held it up, demanding all their torches, or else! She didn't get any, and in the end Steve lent her one.

This was my second trip to Rendlesham as part of a large group of enthusiasts (I have been many times before in the 90s as part of small, covert exercises!), so for me it was nothing new. I didn't expect to see or feel anything, and I wasn't disappointed. Actually I did feel something - very cold, and my hair went all curly in the damp.

To my mind, this sort of guided tour



**NEWSPAPER REVIEWS**  
**BY ERNIE SEARS.**

No particular order.. chaos reigns currently.. increasingly.. who said UFOlogy was dead? Alive and kickboxing the debunkers senseless!

**BOURNEMOUTH DAILY ECHO**

three page Review for Tuesday Sept 9th displays a massive "Close Encounters" craft and some details of talk given by UK UFO Researcher Ananda Sirisena based on the Disclosure Project at the Positive Living Group's Bournemouth venue on September 15th. SUFOG were canvassed with leaflets etc via Steve and myself but we opted out of a New Forest trip back after 11.00pm! Anyway we have seen Stephen Greer's Disclosure Project Video.. still gripping. A Poole witness gets a whole page in the article on a FOUR HOUR sighting in 1956 and links are suggested of a psychic connection. Highlighted quotes from officials well known to most of us make the article impressive. Photo copies available at cost.

**THE DAILY MIRROR's** Jonathan Cainer astrological page covers UFO's often and September 4th no exception with a Day The Earth Stood Still illustration and asks the question 'Will a UFO change your life forever? (I mentally said YES!)' A 1958 landing in a Wood Green London account follows and others are asked for. **SAUCER FULL OF SECRETS** said the 18th September issue and Cainer admits he's never seen a UFO and 'finds it hard to

believe' Normal, mate! A hovering and speeding off 1995 UFO had the classic Adamski scoutship shape complete with dome and flat underside and windows around the edge. Two witnesses. The 25th issue had another sighting by a Doncaster couple.. in 1984. 'Steel grey, huge, with lights around the edge, silent and graceful' Another sighting followed. The column long article asked 'What are they trying to tell us?' What indeed!

**THE DAILY MIRROR** had a photo of that Avebury "Red Lion pub" UFO on August 21st and had a questioning headline 'was it a lying saucer?' SUFOG skywatchers were there and sussed out a hoax, aided by a TV company and pranksters who burst into the pub where our intrepid members were quenching their thirst.! A Channel 4 documentary is being shown early October as I write...allegedly not straying too far from truth.. its called "The Believers" and we suspect, hope, its the one they made of our group activities earlier.

**THE SUNDAY EXPRESS** of 24th August had a half page on the guy who put a binary code message near Adams Grave, Wiltshire, taking painstaking hours to ask 'What do you want from us?' A stunning collection of crescent shaped formations appeared within a day next to the message. Quite WHAT "their" answer was I cannot even speculate. Your ideas please? It does resemble Kenneth Arnold's crescent shaped 1947 "flying saucers".

**THE DAILY EXPRESS** of September 9th has quite a big coverage of one elaborate crop formation and much else on the enigma of the whole myths and legends etc of old "magical" England in their Holiday Section **THE TIMES** 23rd August, got close up and personal with Mars in a half page article, well illustrated and in colour of all the salient points of the Red Planets close approach. No doubt most of us got to see it at least once...but, like most of us, I didn't see any little green men waving at us and posing for photos!

**THE SUNDAY TIMES** "Travel" section had a whole page on the 24th August on tracking down monstrous beasties on your holidays... lavishly illustrated with Yetis, Chupacabra's, Norway's "Selma", the equivalent of our Loch Ness ditto...Australia's Yowi,...Canada's Ogopogo...while Old Nick, alias the Devil, gets a half page with the New Jersey Boondocks Pine Barrens complete, holidays that might include armed posses, bluegrass stompers such as the Sugar Sand Ramblers.. mutilated animals, etc etc, all the product of a circa 1753 deal with Satan it seems. What a weird world we live in!

**THE TIMES**.. late September.. something so strange that I choose to make this the finale! "Kazakhstan

announces new global initiative" Serious UFOlogists.. especially contactees.. will appreciate the getting together of a Congress of World and traditional national religions on September 23rd. About 30 delegations have arrived, representing Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism and Shinto. This Congress began in 1893, and although its aims are peace between religions, I reckon they've a tough job ahead. And yet, and yet, our "visitors" have long urged mankind to make peace. Have implanted in our MINDS strange impossible seeming ideas, aims, desires. Those of us in this strange conglomeration called "UFOlogy" and it's umbrella called "the paranormal" will be aware of this inward urging...mostly unspoken. But we are also aware of the threat to our eventual birthright in joining the Brotherhood of the Universe. So far we will not be allowed. The sign reads; Beware. The natives are dangerous I rest my case as the saying goes.

**THE DAILY MAIL**, July 25th. ran a full two pager on GHOSTS BUSTED by their Science Reporter Tim Utton, illustrated with well known and not so well known photos of alleged phantoms.. some we've seen at our group meetings. The photos, not the spooks! Richard Wiseman.. a misnomer if ever there was one!... is the "expert" behind this one. The Shrouded woman coming down stairs in Norfolk. The ghostly "shape" fronting a mangled car behind it. A ghostly "bear" behind two women. Etc. Wiseman's "answers" include a camera strap in front of the lens. A pool of liquid and police car headlights. Two "fakes"? and so on

**THE DAILY EXPRESS**, SEPT 9th, Dr. Wiseman at it again with a full page featuring silhouetted cemetery crosses with a huge shrouded figure behind them. Stories of other hauntings has Wiseman postulating "vibrations".. a rumble known as infrasound. Wind. Traffic noises. Organ. Not detectable by the human ear but our body picks them up. Or Gas and radiation leaking from the ground. The article also throws in other "experts" such as Harvard's Richard McNally who goes for that risible "sleep paralysis" to explain ghosts and alien visits.

Swiss scientist Dr Peter Brugger,,, no puns please!...says higher brain levels of dopamine. Fortunately for my blood pressure.. and YOURS.. the Ghost Society quotes instances where ghosts have appeared more often in ordinary homes than stately ones. While some of their investigators have photos of green blobs, and spots, etc. The case FOR ghosts got a section of the article showing "unexplainable" photos and similar stories.

**THE DAILY MAIL** Sept 8th did a half page based on Dr Wiseman's theories....those infrasound rumblings can produce extreme anxiety, coldness, shivers down the spine. etc. Scientists even tested a duck to see if its quack really DOES Echo. It did! And they call UFOlogists nutters?

**NEARLY THERE!** My **PSYCHIC NEWS** for week ending September 27th ran the story of a bunch of people doing a TV vigil at Leicester's 300 year old Belgrave Hall. They included comedian Vic Reeves, his wife Nancy, Medium Derek Acorah and his wife Gwen, TV presenter Yvette Fielding, and "Now" journalist Jay Bowers, who reported the paranormal proceedings. Medium Derek encountered a spirit "Margaret" in the gardens.. a Margaret Ellis lived there until 1923. Sightings of women in the gardens have been reported by the International Society for Paranormal Research. The most dramatic incident on this night was when a TV camera man was suddenly rushed from the top floor out into the garden suffering from "heat exhaustion". He sat alone on a bench. Then his colleague ran inside saying he had 'seen a ghost.' Racing to the window., the group saw what appeared to be a man sitting beside the cameraman, "He" vanished after about ten seconds. During the night medium Derek Acorah transmitted "communications" to members from deceased people who they recognised. How come the clever clogs NEVER seem to visit such well known sites? What are they afraid of? Their years of University and College training all for nothing? Loss of income? YOU DECIDE!



MAGAZINE REVIEWS  
BY ERNIE SEARS.

FRONT..well, gotta put this thick glossy September issue FIRST with a title like that! Not quite our usual style.. definitely a lads and ladettes mag. ...and at £3.10 beyond my reach but kindly loaned by my friendly local newsagent! Wading through the almost totally exposed ladies and the few males I found a four pager on page 80..'FRONT comes a cropper' it said and 'twas their reporter sharing a weekend with a parcel of crop circle hoaxers! Very interesting.. three lads with three planks. a rope. And a tape measure.. highly technical. A previous drawing scaled up on site. a chosen West Country field. a dark night. lots of humour and the odd four letter word, two or more hours of sweating and the job's done. These guys are allegedly highly experienced and claim visits to America and New Zealand, where they are 'treated like stars'! Filmed by American cable NBC. Big brother 1V. 'Any weird experiences? the reporter asks. Strange things HAVE been seen including a large orange "lozenge" of blinding light. SO there! Interesting? Yeah. Impressive? O NO NO!

OVNI.. thank God for sanity!

Omar Fowlers bi-monthly Sept/Oct and, ironically, in view of the sad news concerning UFO MAGAZINE's Graham Birdsall, the first few pages feature a detailed obituary on Flying Triangle Data Base expert Victor J. Kean who died suddenly at his Swedish holiday home July 6th. While Flying Saucer Review Editor Gordon Creighton passed away on the 16th July. OVNI went on to carry its usual excellent articles.. that power blackout in the USA has some not surprising communications from various sources in America (before the UK and other similar or related happenings) concluding with the significant statement; 'Wild speculation or is there something sinister going on?' A view which I agree with. More articles..amateur astronomer views eight or nine lights over Derby August 2nd that looked two dimensional and were soundless, changing formation at one stage. Faster than any plane. A domed and lit hovering object reported on the 24th August over the Isle of Lewis. A triangular object performing complicated aerobatics over Oxfordshire 20th August with six smaller objects which sped away. BBC cameraman filmed three bright lights over the Malvern Hills 23rd July. Television science correspondent said 'unexplained' and another witness equally puzzled. A "Life After Death" experience related which appeared to the witness in her home in 1991 is another intriguing anecdote. Crops Circles and the Evening Sky followed by the usual OVNI Tale Enders conclude another interesting and forward looking issue. Non, members can get the mag. at £1 per issue from; 94 The Circle, Sinfen, Derby, DE24 9H.

**AWARENESS** is the Summer issue mag. of Contact International UFO Research and a handy pocket sized smart product. Interesting editorial by Geoff. Ambler although I disagree slightly on his dismissal of 'nuts and bolts' craft...typical of a non-abductee.. sorry Geoff. Otherwise an excellent issue. Those "orbs" featured.. that stunning and lengthy video we saw at our last meeting would interest Geoff and widen his views! I'd seen it before but still stunned me. That American power failure. VERY long article concerning mankind's SOUL and UFO connections... another I can relate to. ANGELS and UFOS also get the spotlight...again in my remit.. and YES.. they DO have wings and if they LOOK cumbersome in OUR reality they're not! Another witness I saw on a Kilroy prog. confirmed this two weeks after my own "encounter" when I was giving a patient healing. "Men in White Clothing" in the mag. also has "angels" linked with UFO's! Just a few reasons why I enjoy Awareness. You can too.. £9 for four, £14 for 8, from PO BOX 23, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33.

**THE AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN** of September is another pocket sized production, smart cover, and the house magazine of the Victorian UFO Research Society. Its 32 pages are packed with interesting and knowledgeable articles. President Judith Magee hopes we like the new look Bulletin...yes Ma'am, we do! On the UFO Trail by Paul Norman. Air Force Officers oppose UFO secrecy!. Big Brother watching Scots Drama Group!. The Early Years. International Sighting reports. Ultra compact galaxies. Victorian Sighting reports. Visiting Aliens Higher Logic. Queensland Sighting Reports. Mission to Mars Unveiled. Much More.. Steve's bringing forward my deadline suddenly means I MUST READ this excellent mag. AFTER I press the "send" button! All enquiries to The Victorian UFO Research Society, PO Box 1043, Moorabbin,, Vic. 3189, Australia.

**RAPPORT** is the bi-monthly mag. for the Ken Phillips Witness Support Group.. I've been a member for quite some years...and has a smart yellow cover this time with a members drawing of an "alien" who reminds me of the one I saw on a recent TV film repeat (The Return).. quite cute! Poems, sightings, experiences, Letters, Ghost research by Gay Baldwin, author of several "ghost" books (note "Ghosts of the Isle of Wight") Mike Joyce and his way over my head "Numbers" article but appreciate his subtitle Enlightenment, Understanding etc! William Hill and James Millen do a gripping article on strange "poltergeistic" goings on in a London school with seeming connections with crop circle formation? Pictures and drawings. More by Michael Joyce on numbers. New secret Australian base. The Roswell International UFO Museum visit. OK? RAPPORT is magazine BY and FOR "Close experiencers" only. That's why its subtitle is Enlightenment." All details from yours truly.

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#### **From Ernie Sears (SUFOG PRO)**

Graham Birdsall...the very name sends a sense of shock and disbelief through me.. and no doubt many others worldwide.

Preliminary reports told of his sudden collapse and immediate hospital treatment but the prognosis was more optimistic than not. We waited in a kind of stunned limbo until the dreadful news of his passing after a long operation. I only met Graham once, at SUFOG's first Open Day where he was one of the speakers. An impressive man. A dedicated man. A bluff but KIND man. He came over like that, fronting the prestige **UFO MAGAZINE** that became the flagship of the worldwide campaign for the TRUTH about the UFO enigma. An ambassador who took the fight worldwide as well as in the UK. The after shocks continue. The disbelief too. A ship without it's captain. But he leaves a competent crew . The sadness will remain, drifting down the river of TIME.I believe that whatever dimension Graham Birdsall is in, he will extend a guiding hand to those who follow. The world cannot do without such great men. We grasp the banner that he left, emblazoned with "THE TRUTH IS COMING" He was RIGHT.

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BUFOSC are organising a UFO Conference on Saturday 6th December 03 at the Waterloo Community Centre in Runcorn. From 11am-5pm it will feature three speakers Eric Morris on new unseen military UFO Footage and recent footage a daily wanted to pay thousands for this year.

Tim Matthews on the evolution of current UFOlogy A reflective Account of modern UFOlogy today Roy Bennett of Staffordshire 'secret' UFO's.

All new stuff the video's are dramatic and stunning you will not see better anywhere in the world. sincerely mean that folks as Hughie Green used to say (He was privy to the Roswell crash by the way). All proceeds going to charity this time to a charity of the late Graham Birdsall's choice. The Conference will be a dedication to him and Gordon Creighton who died in July. Tickets 5.00 usual food & drinks buffer, raffle prizes and stalls. Contact Eric Morris NEW NO 01606 737687 or at 192 Booth Lane Middlewich Cheshire CW10 0EF Please attend and make it a good un on behalf of our late colleagues Thank you Eric Morris

of locations of "historical interest" led by the indefatigable Brenda Butler would be better done during daylight hours, where people can actually see what Brenda is describing. And the idea that some sort of paranormal entities, who are notoriously shy and elusive, would reveal themselves to a huge party of noisy, laughing, camera-flashing explorers being frog-marched through the forest is in itself quite illogical.

I enjoy walking in quiet, dark, spooky places and was extremely irritated at the flash photography that happened at two minute intervals throughout the night, blinding everyone and destroying any chance of developing night vision. Of course all these photographers were after "orbs", and they got plenty of them. I don't believe orbs have any paranormal provenance, but are artefacts of flash digital photography, and with the amount of particles that hundreds of feet and bodies were throwing up into the air with us crashing through the undergrowth, coupled with the damp air conditions, I'd have been surprised if we hadn't caught loads of orbs on film.

There was no sign of mists of any kind, either normal or paranormal, no balls of light, no apparitions nor any strange noises or sensations, at least not from anyone that I spoke to. Brenda makes some amazing claims about this forest, but sadly we were not to be witness to any of them on the 3rd national skywatch.

But the sky, wow! That was just amazing. Seldom have I seen such a sky in this country. Its crystal clear vastness and beauty was awe-inspiring, a veritable panoply of stars and planets intertwined amongst the gas clouds of the Milky Way. It reminded me of the equatorial sky in Zimbabwe. This alone was worth the trip to Rendlesham, and I still have a crick in my neck as evidence of my fascination.

But on to the serious and enjoyable business of the evening - catching up with old friends and meeting some new ones. This was done in the relative warmth of the car park around primus stoves and hot cups of tea. Yes, some wise and seriously keen researchers had come in camper vans -

they know the score. Rendlesham forest will always be there, but a hot cuppa on a cold night is a thing to be treasured. I picked up several snippets of intriguing information, both about world and ufological politics. Sorry, it's all confidential, of course! I cannot name my sources, but one of them writes articles for a reputable newspaper and has a very Scottish name :-)

Chris French, the psychologist, was a surprise attendee. I asked him why he was there, and he seemed bemused and confused. He had been cajoled into coming along by some colleagues and wasn't at all sure what he was supposed to be looking for or experiencing. That struck a deep, resonant chord in my psyche, to be honest. When I told him that there were dark mutterings about his sceptical frame of mind putting the kybosh on the whole endeavour, he found that as amusing as I did, and not a little flattering. By the superior power of his mind alone, he can stop all paranormal activity. Neat, or what?

But the real, real highlight of the whole exercise was the trip there and back in the SPI minibus. I laughed until I cried, and then laughed some more. What a great bunch of people! It reminded me of school trips in primary seven to such interesting places as Dunbar and North Berwick. We couldn't give a monkey's where we were going, as long as we were set loose from the asylum. A big thank you to Nick, Max, Malcolm Boggis and John Wickham for keeping us in stitches with their witty repartee. I don't think we talked about ufology once in the whole journey. I suspect, however, that a couple of people from the minibus had an "experience" in the forest that night, but they ain't tellin'.

I've already booked my place for the next national skywatch in Wiltshire, 2004, and I hope we get the same crowd on the bus. Forget the serious research, and I am being serious now. Skywatches have never really been about UFOs and aliens - it's all about social interaction, exchanging information, gossip and having a good laugh. And amen to that!

Judy Jaafar (Chairperson British UFO Research Association)

And finally just when you thought it was safe

to go out !

## THE FOURTH BRITISH NATIONAL UFO SKY-WATCH

**Saturday 17th July 2004.**

At East Field Car Park, near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire.

Commencing at 11:30pm.

The county of Wiltshire is infamous for a number of reasons, firstly many Crop Circles have appeared in the fields of Wiltshire many appearing near historical sites such as the Avebury Standing Stones, Silbury Hill near Avebury, and the Kennet Long Barrow again near Avebury. Eastfield car park has a commanding view of Pewsey Downes and it is in Eastfield that some of the best Crop Circle formations have been found.

More to the point however and moving away from Crop Circles, are the small balls of light that have been sighted coming into and out of crop formations, the nearby Golden Ball Hill was probably named in years gone by purely on this factor.

It is to this area that SPI will again stage another National UFO Skywatch and invite all interested parties to come along and join in what will surely prove an interesting evening.

Participants are invited to come along to the Barge Inn at Honey Street for 9:00pm, where after at around 11:15pm we will head to the nearby location of Eastfield car park.

Further information about this skywatch will be given nearer the time. My thanks to my partner Judith Jaafar for suggesting this venue as the next British Skywatch again being organised by research group Strange Phenomena Investigations.

Malcolm Robinson, Founder (SPI Scotland-England )

8 Hale Gardens, Ealing Common, London, England, W3 9SQ

Tel: (Mobile) 07949 178 835. (Home): 020 8993 6532. (after 7:00pm)

E:mail: [spi\\_spi@hotmail.com](mailto:spi_spi@hotmail.com) SPI Site: [www.angelfire.com/spi](http://www.angelfire.com/spi)

## Group Member Bill & Ferne Coones.

September 3 2003

As we were going back home from The Bournemouth Dowsers Society talk we stopped at Heingstbury Head and drove into the parking lot to do a little sky watching before heading off to home. The parking lot faces the sea on one side facing south and there were streetlights in the lot in back of us. After a few minutes of looking around in the sky for moving objects I was looking straight overhead and thought I saw a formation moving. I looked again and saw an elongated triangle light formation moving at a slow pace to the east. The brightness of the lights were dim and formations of this sort I have seen before were with no stray light. There were streetlights in the parking lot and I had to shield my eyes to see it clearly. On first sighting the triangular formation looked like this:

X  
X east

north side

As Ferne and I watched in amazement the triangular formation kept moving slowly in a straight line to the east . The formation lasted almost three minutes by my estimation and after it dimmed out being far to the east I looked at my watch and it was 9:55 pm.

At the final stage the formation looked like this:

X  
X east

X  
north side

Didn't notice the lead light dimming out and the rest consecutively this time. The

whole formation just faded out in the distance. Didn't have my video camera with me as we stopped there for an informal skywatch and it was unplanned. This is the 5th formation of this sort I have seen and the first in England. The moon was low in the west and about half full. A clear night with no cloud obstructions. I have seen one formation similar to this one, Sept 1 2002, do a 180 degree banking turn at Mt Adams which is impossible for a satellite to do. Heingstbury Head is an ancient settlement on the south side of the Christchurch estuary on the sea.

I think these triangle moving light formations are very fascinating and worthy of reporting, so here it is. We will be heading off to Boscastle Cornwall tomorrow for a week.

bye for now... Bill Coones

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Date : 24<sup>th</sup> August 2003

Ref : SG/22/03

Location : Southampton, Hampshire

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**UK/ENGLAND - CIRCULAR OBJECT WITH RING OF LIGHTS SEEN FLYING**

SOUTHAMPTON - Two friends were sitting in their back garden at 9:35 PM, on August 24, 2003. when they both noticed a circle shaped object traveling southwest across the sky. A series of lights arranged in a circle was flying as fast as a normal plane and was fairly high. It disappeared over the clouds. I thought I could hear the drone of a distant engine although my friend said it was silent. We watched it until it went out of view, heading across the English Channel. NUFORC

Filer's Files #36 - September 2, 2003,

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Date : 7<sup>th</sup> September 2003

Ref : SG/21/03

Location : Fontwell Race Course, West Sussex (Car boot sale)

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Time : 10 am

Witness : Mark Green  
(SUFOG member)

Whilst at Car boot sale, saw a classic disc with silver glare (sunlight reflecting from silver body of craft). Object about 10 ft above tree line and approx. 400 yards away from witness. He turned around to get someone else to look at object and when he looked around again within a few seconds, the object had gone.

Phone call from witness 7th September approx 90 mins after sighting.

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**Whitehaven News 28th August 2003.**

At approx 21-40 hour GMT on the evening of Saturday 23rd August, a UFO was witnessed by several members of the public in several locations around West Cumbria.

A UFO was spotted over Whitehaven on Saturday night. People in the Corkickle area of Whitehaven saw a big star surrounded by white lights and what appeared to be a framework.

One of the residents, John Burns, of Irt Avenue came into the Whitehaven News office to report the sighting. "It was pear shaped and came in from the Solway Firth over the valley. There were no navigational lights, just white lights all round it and some sort of fabrication linking the thing up. It was very unusual. I had never seen anything like it - and none of us had been drinking".

There was also a twist in the tale of the so-called flying saucer. "just as it went in a south easterly direction towards the lake district ,something broke off or was jettisoned, falling to earth like a flash of light" said an amazed Mr Burns.

On a personal contribution, I was contacted by a witness within five minutes of the sighting and was unable to witness anything due to a roughly 60% cloud covering of the night sky. They witnessed

the object approaching from the Irish sea and passing overhead and described the object to be shape and colour as an orange streetlight. The witness experienced her sighting accompanied by several members of the public enjoying the fresh air a countryside beer garden and the observing gathering continued to witness the "UFO" release two separate briefly illuminated objects before going out of view. Another witnessed contacted me about the same UFO sighting and had taken a digital photo of the object with his mobile phone which had been of minimal quality. As an aside, there have been no visible ISS passes in this area for around three weeks. I have been the skies around the West Cumbrian coast for several years and this area continues to have a reputation for UFO reports. The coastal area hosts regular DERA exercises ranging from the Eskmeals facility (West Cumbria) and the West Freugh DERA facility at Kirkcudbright on the coast of south west Scotland. Illumination flare exercises in these areas are held on a regular basis, yet these are mainly organised around 10-30 AM and are not usually inland, and one cannot ignore the striking parallels with the Phoenix UFO lights.

The West Cumbria coastline continues to throw up mysterious light forms. In the past, RAF Hercules and Nimrods have passed over the Solway firth and have switched off their prominent lights which can baffle the most experienced onlooker into believing they have witnessed a mystery craft. I believe that there is an excellent chance that someone may have captured this relatively "slow moving" aerial object on video and hope this information may assist any UFOlogist's or UFO groups in the UK or elsewhere.

### Evening Star 30th August 2003.

#### UFO sighting excites alien hunters.

UFO investigators are targeting Suffolk in their quest to find alien life.

The county has become the focus for alien hunters, in a case worthy of X files agents Mulder and Scully, after a strange sighting of an apparently alien craft in the skies over east

Suffolk.

Eagle-eyed residents living along the banks of the River Orwell may have witnessed a close encounter of the third kind if they had glanced up at the starry sky.

A strange yellow D-shaped object was spotted overhead by a man in his garden at Freston.

He watched in wonder as the UFO changed shape before it altered course and flew off at around 11pm on August 5.

But instead of phoning home, like Steven Spielberg's ET, the man called the operator who put him through to Contact – an organisation based in Oxfordshire that records and researches UFO sightings.

They treat all reported sightings in the strictest confidence so were not prepared to identify the witness.

The object could not have been very high as the witness saw an aeroplane flying above it, but he knew it was not the moon as he could see this clearly.

It was not the police helicopter either. According to a police spokeswoman the helicopter was not in the area that night.

Contact spokesman, Michael Sopher, said: "It would interesting to know if anyone else saw the same thing.

"Any sightings over the Ipswich area are of great interest to us due to the historic events at Rendlesham. New evidence recently released from the government admits that this event was a proper UFO landing."

Rendlesham is renowned worldwide for the events in 1980 when American airmen claimed a UFO landed in the forest at their airbase.

The events remain unexplained although recently someone came forward claiming to have hoaxed the strange events.

However Mr Sopher believes no one could have damaged leaves hanging 50ft up in the trees or caused the surge in radioactivity measured in the area.

He added: "In East Anglia reported sightings differ from other areas. There are lots of reports of strange objects flying

inland from the sea and then back again.

"There was a wave of UFO sightings in Birmingham in June. Many people reported seeing lights zig-zagging in the sky near the airport.

"At the time there was a geomagnetic storm which we believe causes people to be more spontaneous and tends to make people who see something more likely to report it."

### **FACTFILE**

Rendlesham – Britain's most famous UFO encounter.

Happened during three nights over Christmas in 1980 when it is a UFO crash landed in Rendlesham Forest close to the American airbase.

Two airmen went to investigate strange lights in the forest and came across a metallic glowing object which manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared.

Animals on the nearby farm were said to have gone into a frenzy.

Two nights later the object reappeared – base commander Lt Col Halt reported in a memo to the Ministry of Defence that he had seen a red sun like object which divided into five.

On the third night the men taped their panicked conversation as they again started to see lights moving through the trees.

The forest is still an attraction for UFOlogists today, some of whom will spend whole nights there.

### **A rise in costs to membership 2004.**

This month sees something that does not happen very often and also something I am not happy at doing. I have recently found out that the cost of the newsletter to post, will rise from 33p to 38p in one leap. Therefore, the group cannot subsidise the ever growing cost of postage and production costs. Therefore as of January 2004, the newsletter cost will change as follows :

Single membership : £8.00

Joint Membership : £ 10.00

Family Membership : £ 15.00

If these prices scare people away, then so be it. But I still feel that £8 per year (Or £1.33 every two months) is still affordable to those who are serious about the subject and most of all the group. The group cannot financially afford to produce the newsletter at a loss and therefore price rises have to be passed onto the general public and to existing members, who, without their support, the group could not survive. This is the way of the world and I am afraid we have to keep up with it for the group to survive.

### **From Brian James APRA ( And SUFOG-Group Member)**

In a way I think APRA and our fellow sky watchers have been paid quite a compliment, as Chrysalis TV spent an awful lot of money for our benefit! The full story is scheduled to be broadcast on Channel 4 on Tuesday 7th October at 10 pm, with the working title "The Believers" (so get your VCRs ready). I went up to London today for some more interview filming with our friends from 'CTV', but it remains to be seen how my words and views are spun for any final cut! As we said immediately after the event, they succeeded in fooling those who wanted to be fooled - but didn't fool those they perhaps set out to fool.

Chrysalis are still interested in any original 'UFO' footage that could be used as part of the documentary - so if you have any footage they you have copyright over (Chrysalis will of course credit copyright where due), then get in touch with them - they don't have a huge budget, but they will pay a sum for any footage used. In view of the short time before the programme is finally cut for broadcast, either send a VHS tape to (or otherwise contact) Sean Docherty ASAP:

Sean Docherty

Producer - "The Believers"

Chrysalis Television Limited

Mayward House, 46-52 Pentonville Road

London ,N1 9HF Tel: 0207 502 6000 (If Sean is unavailable, ask for programme developer Kirsten Johnson)

From: Chris Rolfe UFOMEK/UFO-TREK  
Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 21:53:26 +0100  
Subject: Graham Birdsall

And all who knew Graham, firstly may I say how deeply shocked and devastated my family are at hearing of Grahams' passing. We cannot believe it. Our lives feel so empty without him there, for he gave us knowledge, support, and hope for the subject. And best of all the gift of friendship, which was valued by us very deeply.

I have spoken to Russel Callaghan, and he has assured me that Christine (Grahams' wife) and his two daughters Melanie and Louise want the magazine to continue as a legacy to Graham.

It was his passion, and his joy, and it would be so sad to see it all go to waste, after all his hard work and effort. I know that on many occasions he worked late sometimes into the night to bring readers the latest issue of the magazine, therefore it must continue, and I call upon you all to give your support in helping it to continue for many years to come.

Graham, was always there for me, and I always remember the support he gave me when my wife (Kerry), became very ill after having our first daughter. She was admitted to Intensive Care in hospital, and I thought I was going to lose her.

Graham, gave me such great support, for that I am so grateful.

Last night I spoke to Grahams wife, Christine, and she thanks everyone for all their messages of support. She told me, that she did not realise just how popular a man Graham was, especially with so many people worldwide. So on behalf of Grahams family, and very close friends I would like to thank you all for your messages of support and comfort especially to Christine and his two daughters.

We will all miss him, for he was a very kind generous, and warm friendly person, and I was glad to have known him over the past 10 years or so. He was also a very devoted husband, father, and grandfather, who often told me many things about his family life, and sometimes I felt he was more than just a friend. It wasn't all UFOlogy with Graham

and myself, it was also a personal friendship.

God bless Graham, I will miss you greatly old friend.

Chris Rolfe

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From: A.J. Gevaerd - Revista UFO  
Date: Fri, 19 Sep 2003 11:45:59 -0300

Dear friends and Colleagues:

It is devastating to know that Graham is gone. He was a dear friend and partner.

Graham was an outstanding man and UFO researcher. A loving father and husband, a caring friend and a responsible person. A man who has done a remarkable job for UFOlogy in the UK, Europe and all over the world. He will be deeply missed.

In this sad moment I can recall that just a few weeks ago, when English UFO pioneer Gordon Creighton passed away, Graham wrote a beautiful tribute to him. Now he is joining Creighton.

The World UFO community has lost two great men in a short period of time.

Go in peace, my friend. You may now know the final secrets about our "other" friends.

A. J. Gevaerd

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From: Robert

Date: Sun, 21 Sep 2003 18:08:31

My sincere condolences to Graham's wife Christine and daughters for his shock passing from Diane and I of The Australasian UFOlogist Magazine and all the UFO researchers from 'Down Under'. It is often said that it is not the destination but the journey that one should take note of. And Graham, who led by example, has done just that. His accomplishments will stay with us for some time to come. And now, in death, he's got the last laugh over all of us. He knows the truth of what UFOs are all about! He will be sorely missed by us all. Cheers  
Robert Frola

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From: Diane Harrison - AUFORN Date: Sun, 21 Sep 2003 19:14:41 +1000 Dear Christine

# UFO SIGHTINGS

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and Family...

It is a sad day for English UFOlogy Graham will be sadly missed by everyone and we know it was through Grahams dedication drive and love of the UFO subject that made the UK UFO magazine and English UFOlogy what it is today.

We will miss his bright personality his warmth and his willingness to always have a chat no matter what hour of the day you called him, and I used to forget the time differences but he would say "its okay Di don't worry I'm awake now and laugh".

I am still in shock as I thought like others that Graham was going to be around for a long time to come and I know his sudden parting will create a void in everyone's life.

I send my prays too Christine "his rock" his 2 lovely daughters the Gran children and his brother Mark in their hours of sadness," please know we in Australia are thinking of you all".

I send this message to Graham:

Graham you leave us now in a physical way but your legacy will be remembered forever and if you get a chance to read all these e-mail then you will know, we all want you to convince the ETs to come clean and let us have the big story and we know if anyone can convince them. "You can"

From all the AUFORN team, God bless dear friend we will miss you.  
 Diane Harrison  
 National Director The Australian UFO Research Network.

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From: Dan Bright  
 Date: Sat, 20 Sep 2003 19:50:47  
 +0100

I'd just like to echo the sentiments expressed by so many in offering my sincere condolences to Mr. Birdsall's family and friends.

I did not know Mr. Birdsall personally, however his dedication to publicising UFOlogy in the UK served to intrigue my own interest in the field, as I browsed through my first copy of UFO Magazine, many moons ago. For that, I remain truly grateful.

Perhaps one of the greatest legacies left by Graham Birdsall are the countless people who were inspired to consider UFOlogy in a serious manner through his energy and enthusiasm for the subject, made manifest in UFO Magazine. He leaves us having gifted a positive influence to so many who, like myself, were not fortunate enough to have made his personal acquaintance. With respect, Dan Bright dan@theunexplained.info www.theunexplained.info

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These are just some of the tributes that are currently being sent across the world via the internet about Graham. Many are very personal and others are from people, who, although they did not know him personally still had admiration for Graham and what he stood for. I hope that when the day comes I no longer here, that someone, somewhere will find the time to remember me in the same way and that like Graham I would be remembered for my contribution to UFOlogy.